

PROJECT SUMMARY

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

SNC 080131

County: Sierra County

Applicant: The Pacific Forest Trust

Project Title: Jamison Ranch Conservation Easement

PROJECT GOAL

The project goal is to complete the preliminary activities necessary to prepare for the acquisition of a conservation easement on the 2,400-acre Jamison Ranch to preserve it as a working ranch and to protect its significant water resources and wildlife habitat.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Jamison Ranch is located in a focal area the Pacific Forest Trust has named the “Southwestern Corridor of Working Forests.” This corridor plays a critical role in the Sierra Valley’s ecological and economic health by providing approximately half of the Valley’s water supply in addition to important wildlife habitat connectivity between the open meadows and upland forests. PFT has been working to protect this corridor of highly significant private lands for 10 years; we have completed three conservation easements and are currently working on an additional three easements to be completed in the next couple of years. The Jamison Ranch is adjacent to three of PFT’s easement projects, and is particularly important to this conservation effort. Its protection would result in over 5,800 contiguous acres of protected working landscapes, wildlife habitat and further protection to the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s assistance in this project would leverage these greater conservation efforts and the financial investments of the Packard Foundation, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program, and private landowner donations.

The project scope under the proposed Sierra Nevada Conservancy SOG would be to complete the preliminary activities necessary to prepare for the acquisition of a conservation easement on the 2,400-acre Jamison Ranch in Sierra County. The steps critical to this pre-acquisition due diligence include:

- Project planning, development and management;
- Easement negotiation and legal review;

- **Completion of an appraisal report; and**
- **Production of a baseline report and monitoring plan to aid in the long-term management of the easement.**

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Due to the fact that PFT just recently signed a retainer letter with the landowner to work on this project, we have not had time to generate letters of support. We have discussed the project with our partners at the Northern Sierra Partnership, and have received overwhelming support for the project as this property was previously identified as a high conservation priority.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------|
| Completion of easement negotiations | April 2009 |
| Completion of legal review of easement | May 2009 |
| Completion of option agreement | June 2009 |
| Conduct and complete appraisal for the property | August 2009 |
| Submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Identify and pursue grant funding for acquisition | September 2009 |
| Complete production of Baseline Report | October 2009 |
| Complete production of monitoring plan | November 2009 |
| Submit Final Report/Final Payment Request to SNC | January 2010 |
| Submit Final Report on Performance Measures to SNC | January 2011 |

SNC PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Project planning, development and management | \$15,000 |
| Easement/option negotiation and legal review | \$12,000 |
| Appraisal services | \$10,000 |
| Production of baseline report and monitoring plan | \$13,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$50,000 |